

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-4203-NC
P.O. Box 8013, Baltimore, MD 21244-8013

To Whom It May Concern:

I work with Arizona seniors every day in my role as the owner of Senior Helpers of Tempe. Throughout my time serving the Tempe community, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact Medicare Advantage has had on Arizona seniors. That is why I am urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to support Medicare Advantage and help ensure that it continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the 666,586 beneficiaries in Arizona who rely on its life-saving programs. Medicare Advantage enables health care providers like Senior Helpers of Tempe to deliver care high-quality health care that meets the individual health care needs of Arizona's growing senior population.

Specifically, Senior Helpers of Tempe provides retirees and beneficiaries with various services, including Alzheimer's and dementia care, companion care, chronic disease care, wellness watch, surgery assistance, and so much more. When I founded Senior Helpers of Tempe in 2020, I aimed to help increase access to high-quality, comprehensive health care for a wide range of clients in need of assistance. We work with our clients and their families to deliver customized, dependable, affordable care and services that improve their quality of life. Medicare Advantage is a critical program that many of our clients rely on to connect to the care they need at a cost they can afford.

As you are aware, Medicare Advantage offers our clients a range of services and supplemental benefits and care not provided in Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare. That is why Medicare Advantage is often a more attractive option at a more reasonable price – the average Medicare Advantage beneficiary saves upwards of \$2,000 a year in costs compared to FFS Medicare. Low-cost additional benefits include, but are not limited to, better prescription drug coverage, greater access to preventative and primary care, and supplemental services that address social determinants of health (SDOH).

These benefits and so much more are why CMS must continue strengthening this vital program, ensuring it is well positioned for long-term success. CMS should also collect and make public the data on health care outcomes within plans and by providers to better assess our seniors' social determinants of health, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the isolation it caused many Grand Canyon State seniors to experience.

Should CMS adopt this critically needed change, Medicare Advantage health care providers in Arizona will continue to provide high-quality care to the many thousands of beneficiaries across our state alone. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



John Skelton, Owner, Senior Helpers of Tempe